

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**DISTRICT OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

MAY 16 P 2:59

SUFFOLK, ss

**05-11096 NG**

Docket No:

U.S. DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF MASS

Donna Layne,  
 Plaintiff

v.

Lori Bullen,  
 Marsha Cannon,  
 Inspector Harrington,  
 Allen Douillette,  
 Defendants

MAGISTRATE JUDGE Bullen

**COMPLAINT**

RECEIPT #	<u>64519</u>
AMOUNT \$	<u>750</u>
SUMMONS ISSUED	<u>45</u>
LOCAL RULE 4.1	<u>1</u>
WAIVER FORM	<u>1</u>
MCF ISSUED	<u>1</u>
BY DPTY CLK	<u>1001</u>
DATE	<u>5/16/05</u>

**Jurisdiction**

1. Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343(3), which confers original jurisdiction on Federal District courts in suits to redress deprivation of rights.
2. This action is pursuant to Title 39 U.S.C. § 1000 and the Fourth amendment of the United States Constitution.

**Parties**

3. Plaintiff, Donna Layne, is a citizen of the United States and resides at 150 Webster Avenue, Chelsea, and Massachusetts County of Essex.
4. Defendant, Lori Bullen, was the Supervisor of Customer Service at the Central Square Cambridge postal store and her work address 277 Massachusetts Avenue {Central Square}, Cambridge, Massachusetts 01111.
5. Postmaster, Postmaster Marsha Cannon, work address is 277 Massachusetts Avenue {Central Square. Cambridge, Massachusetts 01111.
6. Inspector Harrington, the interrogating officer whose permanent work address is unknown at this time.

7. Inspector Allen Ouellette, the interrogating officers whose permanent work address is unknown at this time.

### **Facts**

8. The Plaintiff was employed as Distribution/Window clerk at the postal store in Central and Harvard Square, Cambridge MA.
9. Plaintiff brings this action to recover damages sustained as a result of a wrongful termination from the United States Postal Service initiated by Defendant Lori Bullen.
10. Plaintiff's Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable seizure was violated.
11. A substantial shortage of money was missing from the clerk's intake windows at the Central Square facility; video surveillance equipment was set up at each window to monitor the activities of the clerks in an effort to identify the perpetrator(s).
12. Ms. Layne was not involved; she had not been a window clerk during the time the thefts occurred.
13. As a result of this surveillance, two employees were observed exhibiting unusual behavior. Helen Rogers, the other employee, was questioned briefly and allowed to leave. Postal Inspectors interrogated the Plaintiff extensively for several hours. She was neither legally represented at this interview nor advised of her right to such representation. She was interrogated in a separate room and did not feel free to leave at any point during the interminable interrogation.
14. On July 12, 2002, Supervisor of Customer Service, Ms. Lori Bullen, issued a Notice of Removal to Ms. Layne, citing her for failure to perform her duties in a satisfactory manner and mishandling postal funds/ violation of standards of conduct.
15. The Postal Workers Union filed a grievance on behalf of Ms. Layne, opposing the disciplinary action filed against her.
16. On April 16, 2003, the arbitration hearing was held in the matter of the grievance.
17. On May 16, 2003 a decision was rendered, after arbitration, which resulted in the termination of Ms. Layne from her employment with the Postal service.

**Count I**

**Wrongful Termination**

18. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in paragraph 1 through 17 and by reference, incorporates them herein. Ms. Bullen, as Supervisor of Customer service at the Central Square, Cambridge Postal store was the immediate supervisor of Ms. Layne, and as such responsible for the removal of Ms. Layne from employment.
19. Ms. Bullen disciplined two employees for the same conduct. One was suspended for two weeks, but the Plaintiff was terminated.
20. Ms. Bullen as an employee of the Postal Service and therefore its agent, acted within the scope of her employment, as supervisor, in the removal of Ms. Layne from her employment.

**Count II**

**Vicarious Liability**

21. Ms. Layne repeats the allegations contained in paragraph 1 through 20 and by reference, incorporates them herein.
22. Pursuant to the Doctrine of Respondeat Superior, Marsha Cannon is vicariously liable for the actions of Lori Bullen, the supervisor who wrongfully terminated the Plaintiff.

**Count III**

**Unlawful Seizure**

23. Ms. Layne repeats the allegations contained in paragraph 1 through 22 and by reference, incorporates them herein.
24. Ms. Layne' rights under the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States were violated when she was interrogated by the postal inspectors who represented the U.S. Postal Service in police role, without probable cause, since at the time the thefts occurred, Plaintiff was not working the POS window and therefore could not have perpetrated or been involved with the missing funds.

25. Plaintiff was not warned that the evidence and admissions collected by the custodial interrogation would be used against her nor that she had the right to have counsel present during the several hours of intense questioning.
26. Plaintiff was coerced into making statements as a consequence to the long and arduous questioning from the postal inspectors.

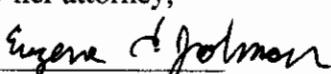
Ms. Layne's agreement to this interrogation was not consensual. She was made to believe that it was mandatory, she was given no information, prior to this, about the length of time, intensity and breadth of questioning or the ultimate use of information obtained.

**Request for Relief**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff respectfully requests this honorable Court to:

1. Enter judgment for Plaintiff on all counts.
2. Order Defendants to pay all back salary, retirement and medical benefits dating back to the date of termination.
3. Restore her to her former position.
4. Award Ms. Layne multiple damages plus cost costs and attorney fees.
5. Plaintiff **Demands** a trial on the merits by jury on all triable issues of fact.

Respectfully submitted,  
By her attorney,

  
Eugene C. Johnson, Esq.  
BBO #: 659713  
264 Broadway – Suite 502  
Methuen, Massachusetts 01844  
(978) 691-5544

May 12, 2005

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

## I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

*D Layne, Donna*

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Essex  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

*Law office of Eugene C. Johnson  
264 Broadway, Suite 502, Metuchen, NJ 08844*

DEFENDANTS United States Postal Service  
Horl Balleen, Supervisor  
Marsha Capron Postmaster  
Hawthorne and Cullote, Post Office Inspectors  
County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Suffolk  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

## II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

## III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Citizen of This State	PTF	DEF	Citizen of Another State	PTF	DEF
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State			Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State		
<input type="checkbox"/> 4			<input type="checkbox"/> 5		
<input type="checkbox"/> 6			<input type="checkbox"/> 6		
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country			<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Foreign Nation		

## IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>	<b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<b>LABOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)	<input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DOLC/DOLW (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 390 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI	<input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability			<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise			<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence		<input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	<b>HABEAS CORPUS:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General		<input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty		<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other		<input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights		<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition		

## V. ORIGIN

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from another district (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment
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## VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

Brief description of cause:

## VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$ 565,000

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND:  Yes  No

## VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCKET NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ APPLYING IFP \_\_\_\_\_ JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ MAG. JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1. Title of case (name of first party on each side only) Donna Layne Plaintiff  
Lori Bullen, Supervisor, United States Postal Service, Cambridge, MA

2. Category in which the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See local rule 40.1(a)(1)).

I. 160, 410, 470, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.

II. 195, 196, 368, 400, 440, 441-446, 540, 550, 555, 625, 710, 720, 730, \*Also complete AO 120 or AO 121  
 740, 790, 791, 820\*, 830\*, 840\*, 850, 890, 892-894, 895, 950. for patent, trademark or copyright cases

III. 110, 120, 130, 140, 151, 190, 210, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310,  
 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 370, 371,  
 380, 385, 450, 891.

IV. 220, 422, 423, 430, 460, 480, 490, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660,  
 690, 810, 861-865, 870, 871, 875, 900.

V. 150, 152, 153.

3. Title and number, if any, of related cases. (See local rule 40.1(g)). If more than one prior related case has been filed in this district please indicate the title and number of the first filed case in this court.

4. Has a prior action between the same parties and based on the same claim ever been filed in this court?

YES  NO

5. Does the complaint in this case question the constitutionality of an act of congress affecting the public interest? (See 28 USC §2403)

YES  NO

If so, is the U.S.A. or an officer, agent or employee of the U.S. a party?

YES  NO

6. Is this case required to be heard and determined by a district court of three judges pursuant to title 28 USC §2284?

YES  NO

7. Do all of the parties in this action, excluding governmental agencies of the united states and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("governmental agencies"), residing in Massachusetts reside in the same division? - (See Local Rule 40.1(d)).

YES  NO

A. If yes, in which division do all of the non-governmental parties reside?

Eastern Division  Central Division  Western Division

B. If no, in which division do the majority of the plaintiffs or the only parties, excluding governmental agencies, residing in Massachusetts reside?

Eastern Division  Central Division  Western Division

8. If filing a Notice of Removal - are there any motions pending in the state court requiring the attention of this Court? (If yes, submit a separate sheet identifying the motions)

YES  NO

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

ATTORNEY'S NAME Eugene C. Johnson

ADDRESS 264 Broadway Suite 502

TELEPHONE NO. Methuen, MA 01844 978-691-5544